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REPORT NO. R-7-51

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CONVERSATION BETWEEN FINNISH GOVT OFFICIAL AND SOVIET LEGATION ATTACHE

1. On 18 Oct 50, a conversation in German and Swedish took place between a representative of the Finnish Govt and a young Soviet civilian attache in Helsinki. (Mr. Bakey). ***ARMY Declass/Release Instructions On File***

2. The Soviet prefaced the conversation by stating that he had had no instructions of any kind from his Legation to initiate this meeting, and that it was his hope the conversation could be as between two "good fellows" - free and independent. Early discussions concerned the weather, family life, etc, but after many glasses of various alcohol beverages were consumed, the Russian became aggressive, argumentative, impolite and sarcastic.

3. The Russian stated that he liked art (allegedly being an amateur painter himself) and could not understand why the Finnish people didn't visit the recent Russian art exhibit in Helsinki.

4. The Soviet attache was curious to know why so few people in the Finnish Foreign Office took Russian lessons, since practically all instead spoke English or French, to which the Finn replied that many young people are studying Russian. Why, asked the Soviet, does Mr. Tapiola, a young Finnish Foreign Office attache, happen to know Russian? The Finn replied that Mr. Tapiola had learned Russian during the war at Syvärri, during the time General Tokarjev's (until summer 1950 USSR MA to Finland) division fought against Finnish General Tapola's division. And where, asked the Finn, is General Tokarjev now? The Russian replied that the General is very ill, adding that he had been Military Attache only because he had earlier belonged to the Allied Control Commission and it was easy for him to stay on after the Commission was dissolved, although he was not a real military diplomat. Col Rybakov (the newly accredited USSR MA To Finland) the Russian explained, is a real representative military diplomat. Soviet carefully explained that Col Rybakov was a representative of the USSR Armed Forces and not a spy.

5. The Russian wanted to know what the Finn thought about the American and British Military Attaches, stating they were not here as governmental representatives, but as spies. The Finn replied that he understood the Americans and English had been extremely correct to the Finns. The Russian asked if the Finn knew Maj Dulacki (Asst American MA to Finland) and wondered why he spoke Russian, stating he is a Polish man and that it was very difficult for the Poles to speak Russian. He further insisted that the Major should speak Finnish or Swedish, not Russian, and asked what he is doing in Finland, to which the Finn replied he did not know. The Russian insisted that for American personnel to speak Russian was an act against the Soviet Union. He added that the only pleasant and polite man in the entire American Legation is Mr. Chase (Counselor of American Legation in Finland) who speaks Swedish.

6. According to the Russian, the British Legation was as bad as the American, in that they were all spies, as, for example, Mr. Bosley (2d Secretary of British Legation in Finland).

7. The Finn was asked why the Soviets were not invited to parties and receptions, to which the Finn replied it was probably because the Russians would not come. The Russian pronounced that a lie, and stated that if only somebody would invite them, they would certainly come, but of course only to parties where they could meet other diplomats, not where only the host and hostess were present.

8. Why, the Russian asked, does the Finnish press take the Korean news only from the Western press, since the USSR papers also publish the news. He stated that the Finnish Press Attache in Moscow, Mr. Fasuri, is incompetent and weak if he is not giving the Russian news to the Finnish papers.

9. The Russian said that the Soviet Union had always to give in in every case, and why were they the only ones to be polite in world policy?

10. What would happen, asked the Russian, if the Soviet troops were sent to North Korea? The American troops, he said, are afraid to spearhead advances and send Korean troops ahead of themselves. The Finn replied that he did not know that field at all, adding that so far as he understood Korean news, there were United Nation troops in Korea, not just Americans, to which the Russian said, "That's not true."

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11. The Russian wanted to know if the Finnish Foreign Office officers had money trouble, and when the Finn replied that they did not, since their families have property, the Russian said, "You capitalists!"

12. The Russian could not understand why they have strikes in Finland, saying that this is bad, and that in Russia it is impossible, for in Russia those who will not work can not live. "Your system," he said, "is wrong."

13. Another bad thing in Finland, the Russian continued, is the summer vacation. The Russians are too patriotic to take vacations, and it is not patriotic of the Finns to take a month's leave. The Russian Legation, the Soviet pointed out, is smaller than that of the English or American. "But on Sundays," he said, "We used to travel to the suburbs." The Finn asked, "Meaning Porkkala?" to which question no answer was given by the Russian.

14. The conversation concluded by the Russian insisting that the Finns had nothing to fear from the Russians, that the only thing the Russians want is friendship!

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